

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended at page 5, paragraph 2 and page 14, paragraph 5 to update the status of patent application serial no. 08/982,187 as "abandoned".

The specification has been amended at page 8, lines 13, 18 and 21 to fill in the blanks with the corresponding metric conversions.

The trademarks used on the specification are in ALL CAPS and refer back to the generic material. Note that it is not required to include symbols after trademarks (see MPEP 608.01(v)).

Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 3,318,063 (Stone et al.) in view of 2004/0213964 (Tilton et al.).

Applicants respectfully submit that the Tilton et al. publication cannot properly be used as a reference against the present invention. The present invention claims priority to provisional patent application serial no. 60/459,275, filed March 31, 2003. The Tilton et al. publication was filed after the present invention (April 23, 2003) and does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the 103 rejection of claims 1-4 is improper. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

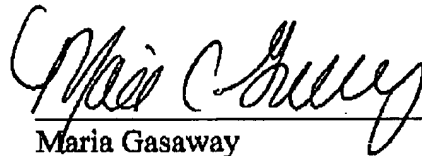
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-4 are in condition or allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned agent at (740) 321-7213 if any unresolved matters remain.

If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

Applicants authorize any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,



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